

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 32-35 and 38-43 allowed.
- Method claims 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19 are rejoined as they depend from independent claim 23 and were amended during the course of prosecution.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

LC
11/19/10

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kirsten Grueneberg on 9/28/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Claim 5, ^{lines 1-2} ~~line 2~~ is amended to delete the phrase ^{which comprises:} ~~"which comprises"~~ and replace with "said method comprising:"
- Claim 23, line ¹² ~~13~~ is added the phrase "and wherein said layered compound is smectite, montmorillonite or mica."
- Claim 24, line ¹² ~~13~~ is added the phrase "and wherein said layered compound is smectite, montmorillonite or mica."
- Claims 36 and 37 are canceled.